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(*b*) why this distinction is made between drivers of the Government Transport Department and other drivers?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) All cases against the State Transport workers for contravention of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules which are punishable with imprisonment for over six months (with or without fine) are charged by the Police straightway before the appropriate Magistrates. All other cases, namely, those which may involve punishments lesser than those specified above are referred to the Enquiry Committee consisting of the Assistant Transport Commissioner, Labour Welfare Officer, and Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic and Licensing), for taking a decision whether the cases should be dealt with departmentally or charge-sheeted before the Magistrates concerned. The above procedure has been prescribed in order to avoid the infliction of double punishments simultaneously —one departmental and the other judicial—against the Transport workers. Further the cases referred to the Enquiry Committee are disposed of without any delay whatsoever and the punishments recommended by the Enquiry Committee have the necessary deterrent effect.

" (*b*) Considering the commercial nature of the Transport Department and in view of the fact that a large number of traffic offences were expected to be committed by the traffic crew, which should naturally be disposed of quickly especially in a commercial undertaking, a special procedure as referred to in clause (*a*) above is being followed in respect of the drivers of the Government Transport Department."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" The reply given by the Hon. Minister is very lengthy. If it is placed on the table of the House, we can put supplementary questions on it later on."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I have no objection to placing it on the table of the House."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" We shall put supplementaries day-after-to-morrow."

Provision of up-to-date meters in motor taxis and auto-rickshaws.

* 256 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM (on behalf of Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether the Government propose to substitute the existing meters in motor taxis and auto-rickshaws by up-to-date meters which give only the fare due and, if so, when?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" In Madras City taxis are fitted with taxi meters, which indicate the fare to be paid by a passenger at the end of a journey and there is therefore no need to substitute the meters in these taxis. In the mufassal, all taxis are not fitted with taxi meters. The question of fitting milo-meters to these taxis in the mufassal

is under consideration separately. As regards auto-rickshaws, taxi meters are not fitted to them, since taxi meters small enough to be fitted to them are not at present available in the market. Only milo-meters are fitted to auto-rickshaws. Steps have however been taken to see that speedo-meters showing not only the total mileage but also the mileage of each trip are fitted to the auto-rickshaw in the place of the present milo-meters.''

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—'' Is it a fact, Sir, that the taxi meters always show 'eight annas' and not 'zero' at the start and if so, may I know, Sir, whether a passenger getting down at the destination has to pay the actual fare shown in the meter or the amount minus eight annas? ''

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—'' If the hon. Member refers to taxis, the minimum fare that is charged is eight annas. Therefore, whether he travels half mile or quarter mile, he has to pay eight annas.''

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—'' Sir, as it shows always eight annas at the start does the recording start from eight annas? ''

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—'' It will begin recording from one mile.''

DR. V. K. JOHN :—'' Has the Hon. the Minister for Transport had occasion to get into a taxi and find out whether any fraud has been committed in the collection of fare from him? ''

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—'' Not for the purpose of finding out fraud but at times when my car gets stranded, I do get into a taxi and incidentally I see whether there is any possibility there of committing fraud. No fraud I believe is committed.''

Readjustment of Local Boards.

* 257 *Q.*—SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state what action the Government have taken on the suggestions offered by M.L.Cs., in regard to the readjustment of Local Boards referred to in the Address delivered by the Governor on 1st December 1954?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—'' The suggestions made by the hon. Member in regard to reorganisation of Local Boards will be considered in proper time.''

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI :—'' உடனடியாக ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கு மேலிட்டு அதிகாரங்கள் கொடுத்து, அதை உச்ச நிலைக்கு கொண்டுவருவதற்கு ஏதாவது அரசாங்கம் யோசனை பண்ணுகிறார்களா, என்ற விபரத்தை இந்தச் சபைமுன் அமைச்சர் சொல்லமுடியுமா? ''

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—'' நகரசபை சம்பந்தப்பட்டவரையில் சேர்மனுக்கு சில அதிகாரங்கள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன என்று காலை சட்டசபையில் கூறினேன். அதைத் தவிர வேறு ஒன்றும் சொல்வதிற்கில்லை.''